

THE FIRST REPORT
OF
THE TRUSTEES
OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS HOSPITAL FOR
CONSUMPTIVES AND TUBERCULAR PATIENTS.

1897.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

To His Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth and to the Honorable Council.

This Board of Trustees was appointed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 503 of the Statutes of 1895. The board met for organization on Aug. 15, 1895, and made it their first study to gather from the opinions of experts all available advice and aid in determining upon a suitable location for the hospital.

A circular letter of inquiry was sent by mail to all the registered physicians of the state, and from very many of them, answers were received containing valuable suggestions. Different members of the board spent much time in examining different localities to which their attention had been drawn.

It was deemed necessary that the place selected should have an altitude of at least one thousand feet above the sea; should be situated on a southerly slope, and protected by wood lands on the north; that it should have a dry soil; be capable of good drainage; be so situated that not less than two hundred acres of land could be secured; and should have an unlimited supply of pure water, to be obtained either from the public water supply of the locality or by a complete system of its own. A further requirement was that the location should possess reasonably convenient means of communication by railroad, and should be located no farther from the centre of population than the other conditions of the case required.

After a continuous study of the question by the individual trustees, and at a regular meeting held at the office assigned to them, at No. 5 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, the com-

mittee unanimously decided that in the town of Rutland could be obtained a site which met all the requirements. The site selected has an elevation of eleven hundred and sixty feet above the sea, and the wooded hill directly north of the hospital buildings rises one hundred feet higher, to an elevation of twelve hundred and sixty feet. The lands selected border on the westerly side of Lake Muschopaug for about eighteen hundred feet, and include the whole of the hill referred to.

After coming to the conclusion here indicated, options for the purchase of nearly all the land desired were obtained, surveys and certain maps were prepared, and the questions of location and the amount of land to be purchased were presented to the governor and council for their advice.

After a hearing and a careful study of the facts bearing on the case, the governor and council expressed approval of the location and expressed the view that it was desirable to secure about two hundred acres, with a considerable frontage on the lake. The trustees proceeded to secure deeds of nearly all the land wanted. They were unable in one instance to make any arrangement, and on petition to the legislature, the statute 1896, chapter 117, was passed, which enabled the board of trustees to secure the lands which were deemed essential. For greater accuracy and convenience the board of trustees caused to be recorded, under the provisions of this act, a description and plan of the entire land taken and also of lands purchased. The record is in the registry of deeds at Worcester, book 1502, page 369. The land was obtained from the several owners as follows: —

G. W. Cowden, 53 acres and buildings,	\$5,500 00
Sarah E. Monroe, 18 acres,	900 00
J. B. Wells, $13\frac{1}{4}$ acres,	450 00
D. R. Wheeler, 59 acres,	2,500 00
B. W. Potter, $\frac{2}{10}$ acres,	10 00
Mary G. Smith, $1\frac{1}{10}$ acres,	200 00
F. G. Bartlett, $11\frac{5}{100}$ acres,	1,000 00
W. H. Bartlett, right of way,	150 00
R. J. Stevenson, 6 acres,	150 00
Legal services, examining titles, etc.,	147 47
Total,	<hr/> \$11,007 47

Land of Daniel Nihen, 28.55 acres, was taken by the authority of said act alone, and no deed thereof has been obtained. The entire land secured is on the summit, or watershed, between the Nashua River basin and the Ware River basin.

The question of a water supply for the hospital was at the same time receiving consideration. Lake Muschopaug affords an abundant supply of the purest spring water, and two ways of obtaining the supply were feasible, — either to put in a small water supply system, sufficient for the needs of the hospital, with a pumping station at the lake, or to secure from the town of Rutland a water supply from a system which they were authorized to construct under statute 1895, chapter 158. The latter method was adopted, and a contract made with the town for a full supply for all purposes, at the rate of one thousand dollars per year for ten years. The town immediately entered upon the construction of its system, and the facilities furnished, ready for the hospital use, are abundant and satisfactory.

That the town of Rutland favored the location of the hospital is evident from the fact that the acceptance of the act of the legislature required a two thirds vote, and at a meeting at which the proposed location of the hospital was assigned as reason for immediate action, the acceptance of the voters was by much more than the requisite two thirds vote.

Competitive plans for the hospital were considered, and the trustees adopted those submitted by Wm. Chester Chase of Boston. They were submitted to the governor and council for approval.

Estimates were obtained as to the cost of the real estate, buildings, equipment and furnishing the same, within the appropriation of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

The question of sewage disposal came up for careful consideration by this board, the state board of health and the governor and council. In order to insure absolute safety and avoid all possible objections, it was decided to incur the unexpected but necessary additional expense of carrying the drainage nearly one mile west through a cut of about fifteen feet in the ledge on the divide, and onto lands, six acres

in extent, there acquired for the purpose of filtration beds, which were approved as entirely suitable for that purpose.

The rock cutting and construction has been somewhat more expensive than was at first estimated, and some necessary changes in the grade of the building, incident to drainage in the direction determined upon, have caused a total outlay of:—

Sewage disposal,	\$10,641 56
The surface drains and underdrains built for the hospital and grounds, etc,	1,757 50
Water supply and distribution pipes, hydrants, gates, etc., have cost (including an estimated \$125 for engineering),	1,924 62
Fencing a part of the grounds,	261 75
Paid and due the town for water rent to January 1,	1,260 62
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Total cost of sewers, drainage, water supply, water rent, fencing and fire protection,	\$15,846 05

Nearly all of which has been an unexpected but necessary expense.

In discussing the general requirements of the plan to be adopted, the committee were convinced, after the most careful study, that detached wards, separated sufficiently for the best sunlight and air, connected only by a convenient corridor, were most desirable, and also that such wards should be only one story in height. This is the approved modern method, desirable for the health and comfort of patients, and when once in operation can be more conveniently and economically administered. Buildings thus constructed cost more than a more compact method of construction of hospitals two and three stories or more in height.

The disbursements already made and under contract are as follows (made up as of Dec. 1, 1897):—

Paid for land,	\$11,007 47
Grading and roads,	11,980 24
Engineers and architects,	9,783 27
Sewer and drainage,	10,857 50
Water system,	1,791 62
Electric wiring,	600 00
Mather & Whiting, contractors,	63,592 65
Franklin Company, heating and ventilating,	10,455 00
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<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$120,067 75

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$120,067 75
Costello & Co., plumbing,	4,280 00
Water rent, town of Rutland,	.	.	.	.	.	.	760 62
Trustees' compensation,	.	.	.	.	.	.	7,733 30
Trustees' travelling expenses,	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,058 29
Miscellaneous,	.	.	.	.	.	.	895 98
							<hr/>
							\$134,795 94

The unpaid obligations under contract and otherwise are as follows : —

[illegible]

The operation of such a hospital, with small detached wards of one story in height, can safely be carried on if lighted with kerosene lamps. We do not, however, recommend this.

It is believed that an electric lighting plant should be put

in, at an estimated cost of	\$5,000 00
For the furnishing of the building there will be required an outlay of	15,000 00
For completing the grading and for the proper adjustment of the grounds, removing stone wall, etc.,	2,500 00
For building a cheap ice house,	500 00
For fencing the filter beds,	150 00
For existing liabilities in excess of appropriation, . .	8,413 89
For needed coal shed at railroad station,	1,500 00
Estimated necessary appropriation for the current ex- penses of the first year,	40,000 00
Total,	<u>\$73,063 89</u>

The act of incorporation (statutes 1895, chapter 503, section 9) provides that the trustees may fix the rate of charge for private patients; pauper patients are to be at the charge of the town or city, or settlement, or at the charge of the

Commonwealth. The actual cost of such patients will, from the nature of the case, be somewhat more than the rate established by statute for patients in lunatic hospitals, — \$3.25 per week. (Public Statutes, chapter 87, section 31.) Nevertheless, in consideration of the especial purpose of the hospital to care for patients otherwise unable to procure proper conditions for their recovery, the trustees intend to fix the rate for private patients at 50 cents per day; and in order that there may be no class feeling among the patients, either of envy or discontent, the trustees recommend such legislation as will authorize the same charge, viz., \$3.50 per week, for state patients and for those chargeable to towns.

It is for the legislature to decide whether this estimated larger expense shall be borne by an annual appropriation or whether a larger charge shall be authorized.

The opening year of the hospital will require an appropriation for the running expenses of the year larger than may be expected in coming years, because it must from the first have a full equipment of physicians, attendants and servants, with full expense for water service, fuel and lights, and this before any patients are admitted or revenue derived therefrom.

The trustees hope that the recommendation of your excellency made to the legislature one year ago, in favor of a more euphonious name, may be acted upon. They suggest "The Massachusetts Hospital for Tuberculous Patients at Rutland," as a name showing the purpose and location.

Respectfully submitted,

FRED. B. PERCY.
ALFRED WORCESTER.
J. C. HAMMOND.
A. W. ESLEECK.
W. E. PARKHURST.

BOSTON, MASS., Dec. 31, 1897.

